

**PARK BOARD MEETING  
Foster Community Center  
January 13, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Kibbey, Veronica Gracia-Wing, Bryan Beverly, Rosalinda Hernandez, Paul Holland, Rita O'Brien, James McClurken

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gib King

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Joe Duris, Old Oakland Neighborhood Association (OONA); Caryn Coyle, Westside Neighborhood Association (WNA), OONA, Saginaw Oakland Commercial Association (SOCA); Andi Crawford, Brittany Gordon, Love Your Block Grants; Bruce Winters, Lansing Soccer Club; Jeff Potter, Lois Knight, John Flaherty, Friends of Bancroft Park; Dennis Louney, Spicer Group; Jeff Lazaros

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:06 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Rick Kibbey added Bancroft Park under Old Business.

**STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS**

None

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Veronica Gracia-Wing moved to approve the November 18, 2015 minutes as submitted; seconded by Bryan Beverly.  
7 yeas; 0 nays

**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Re-Naming Westside Park**

Kibbey stated this has been before the Board a couple of times. The Board asked the Old Oakland Neighborhood Association to talk with neighbors of Westside Park to see if there were any issues with re-naming this park.

Joe Duris sent out a survey to the neighbors and composed a summary.

Kibbey stated one question that was asked was should the park to be renamed be St. Joe Park instead of Westside. What the neighbors were not aware of was there was a request submitted several months ago to rename St. Joe Park, which the Board has already acted on.

Paul Holland moved to recommend this request to the Memorial Review Board. Bryan Beverly seconded the motion

Veronica Gracia-Wing inquired if there are any concerns with the proposed development of the park. Joe Duris stated no there is not.

Brett Kaschinske mentioned the new guidelines passed at the November meeting regarding groups having funds for plaques and there would be a plaque outlining details of the Wilson's.

Paul Holland amended his motion to include the new guidelines pertaining to plaques. Bryan Beverly seconded the motion. 7 yeas; 0 nays.

Motion carried.

### **Love Your Block Parks Projects**

Andi Crawford, Neighborhood Resource Coordinator, stated Love Your Block is a high-impact service strategy that seeks to connect the Mayor's office with community members in revitalizing their neighborhoods. The City of Lansing received \$30,000 from Cities of Service to implement Love Your Block. Three grantees have chosen to work in parks within their neighborhoods which are Everett Park, Westside/Dunnebacke Parks and Edmore Parks.

Bruce Winters, Lansing Soccer Club, stated through Love Your Block funding Everett Park will have turf restoration and fencing to prevent individuals from driving on the field, installation of Doggy Waste Station and Welcome Sign and installation of security lighting on the shed. Activities requiring additional funding would include installation of 6 new soccer nets and demolition of the the small parking lot to create more green space.

Joe Duris, Old Oakland Neighborhood Association (OONA) and Caryn Coyle, Westside Neighborhood Association (WNA), and Saginaw Oakland Commercial Association (SOCA) presented their plan which would mark the trail and preliminary building of trail, publish literature to the neighbors informing them and looking for support of this project, installation of a bench and cement pad and installation of an 2,400 sq ft native wildflower garden adjacent to 1st trail section. Activities requiring additional funding would be part of a larger project named the Point West Art and Trail Project, install a trail around these two parks, install exercise equipment and benches around the trail and install an art piece at Saginaw Point. They have raised \$50,000 since September to start this project.

The final project is Edmore Park: Eaglevision Ministries/International Dreamcenter of Lansing. Love Your Block funded activities include installation of a memorial pavilion, bbq, picnic tables, and two benches. Open park up to river with fencing for the safety of children, remove tetherball pole, install one basketball hoop, Install additional lighting around the park and fill the potholes in the parking lot. Activities needing additional support include installation of a floating dock and complete re-pavement of the parking lot.

### **CONCEPT BASEBALL**

Brett Kaschinske stated Jeff Lazaros saw Beacon Field and approached him about a baseball field with the same open play concept.

Jeff Lazaros stated he loved playing baseball and likes the idea of open play without having to have a team.

He has met with Brett and spoken with Scott Dane from Beacon Field. Lazaros provided conceptual drawings from Hobbs and Black.

The idea would be for individuals to free play with no fly balls or base running. Ferris Park would be a location to consider north of Beacon Field.

Rick Kibbey inquired if Lazaros has spoken to the Lugnuts. He stated not yet.

Paul Holland inquired if this is for profit. Lazaros stated it is not.

Veronica Gracia-Wing inquired if it is automated or does it require someone to be on site. Lazaros stated not at this time, there is nothing mechanical that would require staff.

Rick Kibbey stated the Park Board did the Master Plan this past year and recreation opportunities is part of that plan.

Brett Kaschinske inquired if there is a projected cost at this time.

Lazaros stated originally the concept was \$600,000, but he has made modifications and scaled down the original version so it could possibly be as low at \$350,000. He should have a figure soon from Wieland Davco.

Kibbey suggested Lazaros stay in touch and work on the figures. Gracia-Wing suggested looking at other locations.

### **WILLARD AVENUE**

Brett Kaschinske stated there is a potential opportunity for park land acquisition at Scott Woods adjacent to Mount Hope Cemetery. This would be through a DNR Trust Fund Grant.

Kaschinske reviewed the parcel on Google Earth.

DNR grants are for the appraised value, with DNR providing 75% of the funds and the City matching with 25%, which is available in the departments land acquisition fund account.

Rick Kibbey inquired if the request is to recommend purchasing the property. Kaschinske stated yes and the plan is to maintain the parcel as natural land.

Rosalina Hernandez inquired the purpose to purchasing the property.

Kaschinske stated it would be to square up city parcels. Kibbey added to secure wetland area also.

Paul Holland inquired if the current owner clears the property, could the city buy the property for less.

Kaschinske stated there is no access to the property except through the abandoned right-of-way on Willard.

Veronica Gracia-Wing moved to apply for the grant and approve the 25% match.

Paul Holland amended motion to cap the city's investment at \$15,000.

Veronica Gracia-Wing and Rosaline Hernandez both stated they do not want a cap placed on the purchase.

Jim McClurken inquired if it is worth debating for a few thousand dollars when there are few properties like this left.

Rosalinda Hernandez seconded the motion to apply for the grant and approve the 25% match. Parks Director would bring this item back to the Park Board if the purchase price is over \$50,000. 7 years; 0 days

**Motion carried.**

### **FORESTY REPORT**

Kaschinske inquired if there are any questions on the report.

Rick Kibbey suggested the Board be notified quarterly on cuttings, storm reports, trends to watch for such as diseases, and plantings.

Bryan Beverly would like to see snow removal report at the end of the season.

**BANCROFT PARK**

Kibbey stated he received a call from Pat Lindemann over the holidays. Pat stated he has won the court case, has accepted the bid and the contractor is ready to go. Kibbey stated he has not seen the work schedule.

Kaschinske stated he has the work schedule he can forward to the Board.

Kibbey stated he wants the schedule made public.

Kibbey said the impression he received from Lindemann is there will not be changes made to the plan. The selection of trees to be cut, the engineer does not have any issue with Board members going out to review the trees to be cut. Lindemann was not going to budge on the 10' paved road because it is needed for maintenance and security.

Jeff Potter stated the last time the Friends were here, Kibbey suggested a fact finding tour of the park, so the Friends met on site and walked Park Board members through the park.

Potter stated he talked with Lindemann last summer and he pushed Lindemann who said he would make changes to the plan if the Park Board asked.

Potter also stated he went to the neighborhood and did not find support for a paved road, extension of the golf tee and there was no support for a sledding hill in the park.

Potter stated the community wants changes, there is no sense in paving the path or extending the golf tee and the sledding hill should remain. If the brush was removed and the park was maintained police could get into the woods.

Potter stated if there is a suggestion from the Park Board, Lindemann would make changes. Potter also stated Brett Kaschinske said he would support the neighborhoods request for changes. Kaschinske clarified that was not the case.

Kibbey said when the sledding hill issue came up the dirt from this project had not been moved.

Kaschinske proposed a sledding hill in Bancroft Park which would have benefits. He spoke with Jeff Potter and other individuals in the neighborhood and they did not want a hill in the park on the playing field. We cannot keep the current hill which goes into the pond.

John Flaherty asked when the plan first came about it was it realized Angel Hill would need to be removed at that time or later.

Kaschinske stated it was realized immediately.

Potter stated all this was news to the group last March. Potter also stated the golf manager has said there is no need for the golf tee.

Kaschinske stated he spoke with the golf manager and that is not his statement. Kaschinske clarified with Potter that he was saying Parks and Recreation made up the move of the tee and wildflowers.

Potter stated Sue Eareckson and Sandy previously with the Friends group knew about this information but did not reach out to the neighborhood.

Kaschinske stated the designs were brought to previous Board and Friends meetings.

The Bancroft neighbors vehemently do not want a paved road and want to preserve the nature of the path.

Lois Knight stated the playground is pathetic and there is no pavilion in the park. They do not want a sledding hill but would like a soccer field or basketball court.

Kaschinske inquired if there is interest in a sledding hill at Porter Park. Knight said that would be better.

Kaschinske stated the tees are being done on the front 9 holes to match the back 9 holes. Irrigation issues have to be addressed when moving dirt on a golf course. The dirt will be used to level out the park, which may help solve the issue of wetness along with repairing a drain line which was cut.

Potter asked to talk with Jason Croker, golf manager, about extenuating existing hills. Kaschinske said yes, speak with Jason.

Veronica Gracia-Wing stated the paved road concept continues to come up and what can the Board do to get a statement from Pat Lindemann that clarifies what, if anything can be changed.

Bryan Beverly moved that the Park Board send a letter to Pat Lindemann requesting a gravel road at Bancroft.

Veronica Gracia-Wing amended the motion to request in writing from Pat Lindemann what changes, if any, can be made to this project.

Bryan Beverly stated clarification on the observation decks, 7<sup>th</sup> hole and paved road is what is being requested.

Veronica Gracia-Wing seconded the motion. 6 yeas; 0 nays

### **UPDATES**

Kibbey provided articles from Ann Arbor regarding deer thinning.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **Accomplishments**

A draft copy was provided. Final copy will be e-mailed to members.

### **REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Jim McClurken asked to add to the February agenda relocating the Windlord to downtown. Kaschinske asked for dimensions before the February meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL**

Dwight Washington stated he did not feel his comments were represented in the Master Plan. Kaschinske asked to receive his comments to put on the February agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary  
Approved February 10, 2016